

Peacebuilding

Creating a stable order

A war leaves behind devastation. Not only for the people concerned but also in the infrastructure and society. KfW Development Bank engages itself in short-term emergency relief measures as well as in long-term projects to secure peace and stability in its partner countries.

Context

Armed conflicts and wars are among the greatest barriers to progress in development. They often claim innumerable victims in the civilian population and cause great human suffering. And they destroy in a short time the results of many years of development: the economic and social infrastructure is destroyed, state institutions are weakened, investment and growth is reduced. In particular the poor and disadvantaged cannot protect themselves from the effects of a war, it takes away their most basic means of existence. In addition, social cohesion is usually shaken after a civil war. Those who were combatants are excluded from society and often they are lacking a civilian perspective.

The 2011 World Development Report from the World Bank states that 1.5 billion people live in states which are characterised by conflict, violence and fragility. These so called "fragile" states lag far behind with regard to the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be achieved by 2015. This is particularly true of the fight against poverty. It is expected that only 31 % of the 51 current fragile states will achieve the goal of reducing their poverty rate by half by 2015 (non-fragile developing countries 67 %) In this way extreme poverty is concentrated all the more in fragile states. Today 37% of the extremely poor live in fragile states; by 2030 this percentage may have risen to 75 %.

Many of the conflict-affected states do not manage to break the vicious cycle of poverty and violence by themselves. Even if the fighting comes to an end, the state structures are often left too weak to be able to quickly and independently push forward rebuilding and societal reconciliation. This has consequences: In almost half of all states in which violent conflict occurred, the peace did not last for even 5 years.

A requirement of the worldwide fight against poverty is therefore reestablishing a stable state order and preventing new crises. When a state no longer needs to expend its resources on war it has capacities free to improve public services and as a result the investment climate.

The KfW development approach

KfW Development Bank pursues a wide range of approaches in order to help partner countries with peacebuilding in their respective situations. It encourages short as well as long-term measures after an armed conflict in order to secure lasting peace.

After an outbreak of violence it is important to act quickly in order to make the peace dividend tangible for the population. Firstly food and basic services need to be provided. KfW Development Bank contributes to this in connection with NGOs and UN organisations. The basic infrastructure is built up again with the help of local people so that they quickly receive work and an income. In addition, refugees are provided for and reintegrated. Former soldiers and warriors often find it hard to reintegrate into society and accept work in a civilian application. That's why KfW Development Bank is financing demobilisation and reintegration programs. Former combatants are disarmed, educated and receive employment opportunities so that they can look after themselves independently.

These quick measures of emergency and transition assistance contribute on the one hand to restoring the basis of living for the population and on the other hand

strengthen the trust in the state.

In the long term, KfW Development Bank concentrates its approach on rebuilding economic and social infrastructure. It supports the rebuilding of schools and health care centres, streets and apartments. Water and energy supplies are rebuilt. In doing so, KfW Development Bank targets underprivileged regions or sections of the population. The labour-intensive implementation of building measures offers paid work for local people. In the medium to long term, employment opportunities are supported, in particular for young people, through the support of small and medium-sized companies.

Aside from this the KfW Development Bank strengthens regional political structures to secure peace. The African Union is financially supported in order to be able to better meet its mandate of rebuilding an architecture of African peace and security.



Bridges connect people - KfW Development Bank financed the reconstruction. Source: KfW / Carla Berke

D.R. Congo - A signal for speedy assistance

The Democratic Republic of Congo has been dominated for decades by armed conflicts. After the elections of 2011 too, the situation remains fragile, particularly in the East of the country. The constant violent conflicts hinder the economic and social development of the country and have meanwhile driven around 3 million people from their homes.

KfW Development Bank set up a "Peace Fund" on behalf of the German government together with the Congolese government. Through fast and visible improvements of living conditions trust should be regained and a lasting peace secured.

Until now 46 individual projects were financed by the fund, among them the rebuilding of schools, health care centres, rural roads, bridges and markets. In the current project phases from 2012 a further 20 individual projects will be realised. The population will be actively involved during planning. For the employment-intensive implementation of projects, above all priority is given to local workers. In doing so ex-combatants are targets for recruitment in order to reintegrate them into society. This creates income and offers a future over and above violence.



Contact

KfW Group
KfW Development Bank
Competence Centre Development, Governance and Crisis
Palmengartenstrasse 5-9
60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Telephone 069 7431 -2316
stefan.lutz@kfw.de